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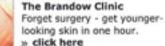
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### THE BRANDOW CLINIC



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#### The Brandow Clinic

By: Kristin Detterline kdetterline@aroundphilly.com

Microdermabrasion isn't relaxing. Nor is it sleep-inducing. In fact, it stinks - literally.

But that's all a good thing. Especially when you're willing to sacrifice aromatherapy candles and dim lighting for smoother-looking skin, fewer wrinkles and that elusive "glow" that's whispered about in spa-going circles but rarely found.

"What separates the Brandow Clinic apart from other spas is our expertise in the field," says Dr. Kirk Brandow, who has 15 years of experience in cosmetic surgery and anti-aging medicine and recently opened his second clinic in Somers Point, NJ, following the success of his 10-year-old Main Line location.

While eyelid surgery, Botox and other cosmetic procedures are done in the office (breast augmentations and liposuctions are performed in an outpatient surgery center), the Brandow Clinic is nothing like the white-on-white examination rooms of a doctor's office. Soft green hues and the sounds of a trickling water fountain draw the outside in, accenting the manicured Japanese gardens that surround the window-filled space. Spa services are performed in one room, with a cushy table to stretch out on and a counter full of lotions and potions.

Esthetician and medical assistant Svetlana Taggart, who has 25 years of experience in the field and the skin to prove it, ably maneuvers her way through the hour-plus microdermabrasion treatment.

First, a thick gel is applied to the face, neck, chest and hands. Then a thin suction wand is pressed in long strokes over the skin's surface to remove surface skin cells and debris and improve fine lines and wrinkles. A light neck and shoulder massage is a soothing finishing touch.

While there's no residual redness (my fair complexion is the perfect test for that) skin may feel grainy a day or two after the procedure. Taggart promises maximum results in two weeks time. I saw an improvement in about one week, with fresherlooking skin and an undenlable glow. So much for rumors.

Brandow Clinic, 100 Presidential Blvd. North, Bala Cynwyd, PA, 19004; www.brandowclinic.com



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